



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**McIVER FAMILY PAPERS**  
**1801-1929**

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**MICROFILMED**

## INTRODUCTION

The McIver Collection is composed of the papers of John McIver and several of his relatives, the most important of whom are Daniel Graham, William Baine Alexander Ramsey, and his brother, James Gettys McGready Ramsey. John McIver (1764-1828) was the emigrant from Scotland who settled in Murfreesboro and had large land holdings in that area. Daniel Graham (1789-1869), son-in-law of John McIver, was Tennessee's first Secretary of State, 1818-1830, and later was Register of the Treasury of the United States (1847-1848). William Baine Alexander Ramsey (1799-1874), whose daughter married John McIver's grandson, Evander, was Tennessee's Secretary of State from 1847-1855. James Gettys McGready Ramsey (1797-1884), brother of W.B.A. Ramsey, was author of the *Annals of Tennessee*. These papers were given to the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and in addition, approximately fifty items have been deposited with this collection by Miss Effie McIver, great-granddaughter of the emigrant.

The materials in this finding aid measure 3.20 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the McIver Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## PREFACE

This collection contains family records of several of the most prominent families in Middle Tennessee. John McIver emigrated from Scotland in 1784 and came to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in 1822. The McIver family intermarried with the family of Joseph Philips who came to Tennessee from North Carolina in 1792. The descendants of these two pioneer families are among the most important families of Middle Tennessee and include such names as Battle, Davis, Dupre, Ewing, Flint, Graham, Hagan, Hall, Horn, Martin, Patterson, Ramsey, Roundtree, Seip, Sumner, Tanner, Warner, Wharton, Williams, and others. There are records in this collection which relate to all of these families.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The McIver Family Papers, numbering approximately 2,000 items, contains family correspondence, business correspondence, accounts, receipts, notes, land deeds, inventories of estates, and other legal documents, clippings, memoirs, and personal memorabilia dating from 1801-1929.

Eighty-two letters (1805-1830) addressed to John McIver by James Sanderson of Alexandria, Virginia, are concerned largely with land transactions and other business matters. The file of documents pertaining to the settling of McIver's estate testifies to the scope of his affairs.

A significant portion of the papers in this collection are addressed to Daniel Graham. The letters (1825-1863) concern legal matters, chiefly land transactions. Among his correspondents are John H. Bills, Michael Carmichael, John A. Main, and A.J. Marchbanks. One letter from Neill S. Brown, formerly Governor of Tennessee, then Minister to Russia, was written from St. Petersburg on February 26, 1852, and deals with the European situation on the eve of the Crimean War. It was probably written to Daniel Graham, but no addressee is given.

John McIver's grandson, Evander, married Mamie Ramsey, daughter of Colonel W.B.A. Ramsey and niece of J.G.M. Ramsey. The thirty-one letters (1832-1874) of J.G.M. Ramsey to his brother indicate his wide interests and his search for sources used in his *Annals of Tennessee*. His strong Confederate sympathies are revealed, and his post-war letters from Exile's Retreat detail his difficulties in reduced circumstances.

The family correspondents, in addition to J.G.M. Ramsey, are Daniel and Maria Graham, Effie McIver, Evander McIver, Irma and Ramsey McIver, John McIver, Mamie Ramsey McIver, Mrs. Marth a Martin, Maria G. Patterson, Susan P. Ramsey, and Colonel W.B.A. Ramsey. These letters picture family life in this area from 1828-1906.

There are a number of letters written during the Civil War. One was written by John Hickman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Louisiana Volunteers from Yorktown, Virginia; three by Evander McIver from Camp Cummings near Knoxville and from Marietta, Georgia; and three by John McIver from Atlanta, Marietta, and Selma, Alabama. The nine letters from James A. Madding, Captain, 35<sup>th</sup> Alabama Regiment, include three written from the prison on Johnson's Island, Ohio. His later letters picture conditions in the South immediately after the war.

A large number of land records – deeds, indentures, and surveys – are included in the collection. These date from 1801-1885.

In addition to the above manuscripts, about fifty additional items have been deposited with this collection. This material is composed of biographical sketches of members of the McIver family; memoirs of Evander McIver and Martha Philips Martin; and broadsides and a diploma from the Nashville Female Academy, 1824-1860; and some genealogical data on the families of Battle, Dwyre, Flint, Hogan, Hall, Horn, McIver, Martin, Patterson, Philips, Ramsey, Roundtree, Seip, Sumner, and Williams. The memoir of Martha Philips Martin contains much valuable and interesting information about

Tennessee and Louisiana during the early part of the nineteenth century. Portions of this memoir have been published in Lyle Saxon's *Father Mississippi* , Guild's *Early Times in Tennessee*, and in *The Battle Book*, a genealogy. The chart of the Philips family was made largely from information obtained from this memoir of Mrs. Martin. Three little Christmas cards of an early date sent by Rachel Jackson Lawrence, granddaughter of Andrew Jackson, to "Little Effie McIver" are among the personal memorabilia in the collection.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

### **John McIver**

- 1764 Born at “Gress,” Stornaway, Lewis Island, Scotland; Son of William and Christiana McKenzie McIver
- Educated in Edinburgh
- 1784 Emigrated with his brother, Colin, to Alexandria, Virginia
- 17-- Married Margaret Cooper, ward of Bishop Samuel Seabury
- 1822 Moved to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and became a large landowner
- 1828 Died and was buried in Murfreesboro

### **Daniel Graham**

- 1789 March 15 – Born at Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 18-- Graduated from the University of North Carolina and studied law
- 1807 Was “Assistant teacher” in Fayetteville Academy for six months
- Moved to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, when it was capital of the state
- 1818-1830 Secretary of State of Tennessee
- 1823 Married Maria Grace McIver, daughter of John and Margaret (Cooper) McIver
- 1847-1848 Register of the Treasury of the United States
- 1849 Returned to Nashville and lived on his farm adjoining Belle Meade on Harding Pike
- 1869 April 11 – Died in Nashville

### **James Gettys McGready Ramsey**

1797	March 25 – Born at “Swan Pond,” the family residence near Knoxville, Tennessee; son of Francis Alexander and Peggy Alexander Ramsey. His father was one of the first immigrants to Knox County in the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio
1809-1814	Attended Ebenezer Academy
1815	Graduated from Washington College near Jonesboro, Tennessee
1817-1820	Studied medicine in the office of Dr. Joseph C. Strong of Knoxville and at the University of Pennsylvania
1820	August 1 – Began the practice of medicine in Knoxville
1821	March 1 – Married Peggy Barton Crozier, daughter of Captain John and Hannah Crozier
1823 French	Built home called “Mecklenburg” near Knoxville at the forks of the Broad and Holston Rivers. Active in educational, cultural, and business affairs
1853	Published <i>Annals of Tennessee</i>
1861-1865	Served the Confederacy in various capacities under President Jefferson Davis
186?-1871	Made home in North Carolina at “Exile’s Retreat,” first near Charlotte, later near Salisbury. Continued practice of medicine and writing
1871/72	Returned to Knoxville and resumed practice of medicine
1884	Died at Knoxville

**William Baine Alexander Ramsey**

1799	February 4 – Born at “Swan Pond,” the family residence near Knoxville, Tennessee; son of Francis Alexander and Peggy Alexander Ramsey. Younger brother of James Gettys McGready Ramsey, the historian
1809-1814	Attended Ebenezer Academy
1815	Graduated from Washington College
1820	Took over father’s farm; appointed magistrate of the civil district
1825	Studied law and was partner of General R.G. Dunlap. Appointed clerk and master of the Chancery Court of Knoxville. Formed an association of citizens of Knoxville to secure funds for building a steamboat adapted to commerce and navigation of the East Tennessee rivers
1842	May 10 – Married Mrs. Susan P. Trimble Washington, widow of William Leslie Washington
1847-1855	Secretary of State of Tennessee
1874	Died in Nashville

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Microfilm Reel # 1**

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#### **Box 1**

1. Accounts – Cancelled checks – E. McIver, Administrator – 1881-1895
2. Accounts – Cancelled checks – Mayo and McIver, 1895; McIver's Fire Insurance Company, 1897-1900
3. Accounts – Cancelled checks – Personal – 1886-1898
4. Accounts – Coal, Iron, and Railway, Alabama – 1886
5. Accounts – General – undated, 1816-1870
6. Accounts – General – 1871-1876
7. Accounts – General – 1877-1878
8. Accounts – General - 1879

#### **Box 2**

1. Accounts – General – 1880-1889
2. Accounts – General – 1890-1899
3. Accounts – General – 1900-1901
4. Accounts – Hagan & Company, E. McIver, Trustee – 1881-1885
5. Accounts – Hagan & Company, E. McIver, Trustee – 1885-1887
6. Accounts – Hagan & Company, E. McIver, Trustee – 1887-1890
7. Accounts – Hagan & Company, E. McIver, Trustee – 1894-1901
8. Accounts – Hays, Thos. S., – 1881-1890
9. Accounts – McWhirter, W.M. – 1899
10. Accounts – Notes – 1810-1895
11. Accounts – Scott, A.G. – 1894-1896
12. Accounts – Simmonds, R.H. – 1900
13. Accounts – Smiley, Mrs. Emily Bronson – 1882-1901
14. Accounts – Smiley, Thos. T. – 1882-1898

#### **Box 3**

1. Accounts – Tax Notices & Receipts – 1860-1879
2. Accounts – Tax Notices & Receipts – 1880-1889
3. Accounts – Tax Notices & Receipts – 1890-1894
4. Accounts – Tax Notices & Receipts – 1895-1903
5. Business Papers – Estate of John McIver – 1827-1830
6. Business Papers – Estate of John McIver – 1831-1837
7. Business Papers – Estate of Thomas McIver – 1902-1903
8. Business Papers – Estate of James K. Polk, Yallabusha County, Mississippi – 1849-1850
9. Business Papers – Insurance Policies – 1882-1903
10. Business Papers – Insurance Renewals – 1899-1903



**Box 4**

1. Business Papers – Land, Deeds, and Indentures – 1866-1903
2. Business Papers – Land, Fentress, Pickett, and Overton Counties – 1896-1901
3. Business Papers – Miscellaneous – 1817-1858
4. Business Papers – Miscellaneous – 1859-1901
5. Business Papers – Report on “Mine of the Fathers,” El Paso, TX – 1902
6. Business Papers – Turnpikes, Nashville, Murfreesboro, and Shelbyville – 1832-1835
7. Business Papers – Will of John Harding – 1856-1860
8. Clippings – Family and Friends – Lafitte, the Pirate
9. Clippings – Jackson, Johnson, and Polk
10. Clippings – “Locust Grove” & Mrs. Martin’s memoirs
11. Clippings - Miscellaneous
12. Clippings – Presbyterian Church
13. Confederate Items

**Box 5**

1. Family Correspondence – Miscellaneous – 1845-1929
2. Family Correspondence – Daniel and Maria Graham – 1828-1830
3. Family Correspondence – Effie McIver – 1886-1906
4. Family Correspondence – Evander McIver – 1863-1866
5. Family Correspondence – Evander McIver to Mamie Ramsey (later Mrs. Evander McIver) – 1866-1867
6. Family Correspondence – Evander McIver to Mamie Ramsey – 1870-1891
7. Family Correspondence – Irma and Ramsey McIver – 1899-1927
8. Family Correspondence – John McIver – 1861-1865
9. Family Correspondence – Mamie Ramsey McIver (Mrs. Evander) – 1868-1904
10. Family Correspondence – Selene Edmundson McIver (Mrs. John) – 1867-1894
11. Family Correspondence – James A. Madding and sister Camilla – 1865-1866
12. Family Correspondence – Martha Philips Martin (Mrs. Thomas) – 1856-1884
13. Family Correspondence – Maria G. Patterson (Mrs. James T.) - 1861
14. Family Correspondence – James G. M. Ramsey – 1832-1874
15. Family Correspondence – Susan P. Ramsey (Mrs. W.B.A. Ramsey) – 1841-1848
16. Family Correspondence – Susan P. Ramsey to Mrs. Scott – 1842-1851
17. Family Correspondence – Col. W.B.A. Ramsey to Susan Washington (later Mrs. W.B.A. Ramsey) – 1841-1843

**Box 6**

1. General Correspondence – John H. Bills – 1825-1850
2. General Correspondence – Neill S. Brown – 1852
3. General Correspondence – Michael Carmichael – 1824-1830
4. General Correspondence – M. Thompson Carmichael – 1845-1850

## **Microfilm Reel # 2**

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5. General Correspondence – Daniel Graham, Incoming letters – 1825-1848
6. General Correspondence – Daniel Graham, Incoming letters – 1849-1863
7. General Correspondence – Ewing and McIver – 1889-1890
8. General Correspondence – Hays, C.M. – 1882-1889
9. General Correspondence – Hays, Thos. S. – 1875-1882
10. General Correspondence – Hays and McIver – 1876-1879
11. General Correspondence – Evander McIver – 1883-1887
12. General Correspondence – McIver and Lipscomb – 1874-1903
13. General Correspondence – John A. Main - 1850
14. General Correspondence – Thomas H. Malone - 1901
15. General Correspondence – A.J. Marchbanks – 1837-1849

## **Box 7**

1. General Correspondence – Miscellaneous – 1822-1882
2. General Correspondence – Miscellaneous – 1883-1929
3. General Correspondence – Col. W.B.A. Ramsey, Incoming letters – 1848-1872
4. General Correspondence – James Sanderson – 1805-1816
5. General Correspondence – James Sanderson – 1818-1819
6. General Correspondence – James Sanderson – 1820-1824
7. General Correspondence – James Sanderson – 1825
8. General Correspondence – James Sanderson – 1826-1830
9. General Correspondence – T.R. Shoemaker – 1894-1899
10. General Correspondence – R.H. and W.H. Simmonds – 1880-1900

## **Box 8**

1. Genealogy – Battle, Dupre, Flint, Hagan, Hall, Horn, McIver, Martin, Patterson, Philips, Ramsey, Roundtree, and Seip
2. Genealogy – Battle, Horn, Macon, Philips, Sumner, and Williams
3. Genealogy – Biographical Data re: Daniel Graham and W.B.A. Ramsey
4. Genealogy – Biographies – Dance, Flint, Graham, McIver, Martin, and Tanner
5. Genealogy – Memoirs – Evander McIver\*\*
6. Genealogy – Memoirs – Martha Philips Martin\*\*
7. Memorabilia – Autograph album – Mamie Ramsey
8. Memorabilia – Lists of china
9. Memorabilia – Martha Martin and Mamie Ramsey McIver
10. Memorabilia – Photographs, etc.
11. Schools – Mrs. Clark's Select School, Accounts, etc. – 1891-1893
12. Schools – Nashville Female Academy – Broadsides and Diploma – 1824-1860
13. Schools – Misses O'Bryan School – 1869; Tennessee Female College, Franklin, Tennessee – 1898-1899; Ward Seminary – 1898
14. Sketches – Governor Willie Blount by Evander McIver
15. Sketches – *Old Times in Tennessee* (typed portion)

\*\*Folders 5 and 6 of box 8 were previously filmed and are located on microfilm acc.

**Portfolio (II-H-7)**

This portfolio contains deeds, indentures, surveys, and plats for the years 1801-1885 of the McIver, Martin, Philips, and kindred families (50 pieces).

**Addition (II-H-7)**

Court Records – Declaration, Summons

John Den, *John McIver* v. *Dick Fen* – 1812

Seventh Circuit Court of the United States, West Tennessee District